

Abstract of the Disclosure

Disclosed is a routing algorithm that uses a new concept of node metric system for optimizing the throughput of a network, in particular, a shared medium network. The measure of congestion of a path in the network is represented by a path metric which is computed by summing the node metrics of the intermediate nodes on the path. Factors used in computing node metrics include the following: 1. future traffic load from neighboring nodes to the node; and 2. future traffic load from the node to the neighboring nodes.